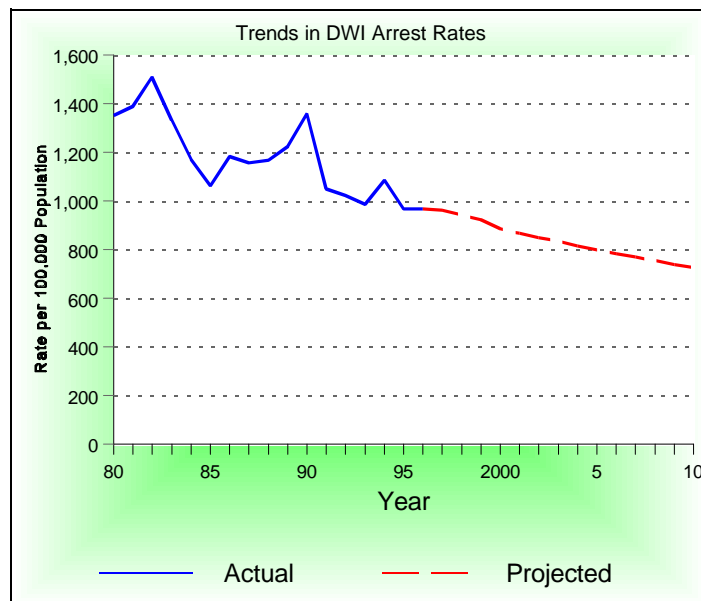


D.W.I. Arrests

In the 1980's, D.W.I. arrests varied considerably and ranged from a high of 90,920 in 1982 to a low of 66,567 in 1985. Since this decade began, these arrests have dropped dramatically. Between 1990 and 1996, the total number of D.W.I. arrests declined by 23 percent.

In 1990, the arrest rate was 1,361, per 100,000, and in 1996, it was 1,202.4 per capita. If this downward trend continues, the arrest rate will drop to 886 per 100,000 in the year 2000 and 725.4 per 100,000 in 2010. This would represent a decline of 25 percent when compared to the 1996 rate and a decline of 52 percent when contrasted with the 1982 record high.



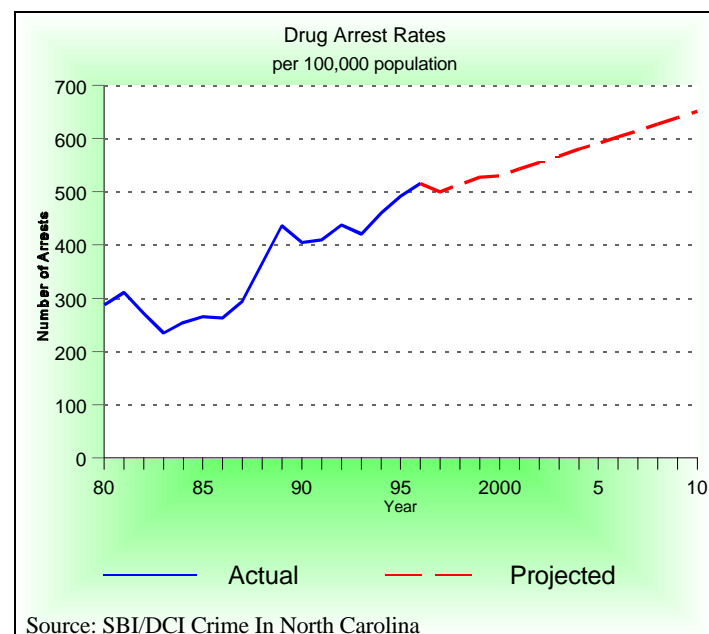
Drug Arrests

The state's drug arrest rate grew from 286 per 100,000 in 1980 to 515 arrests per 100,000 persons in 1996 (80.1 percent). This rate has grown consistently since 1993, and based on this growth pattern, the state could record as many as 530 arrests per 100,000 in the year 2000. By 2010, the drug arrest rate could be as high as 651 per capita. This would equate to an increase of 26.3 percent over last year's rate and a 127.1 percent increase over the 1980 rate.

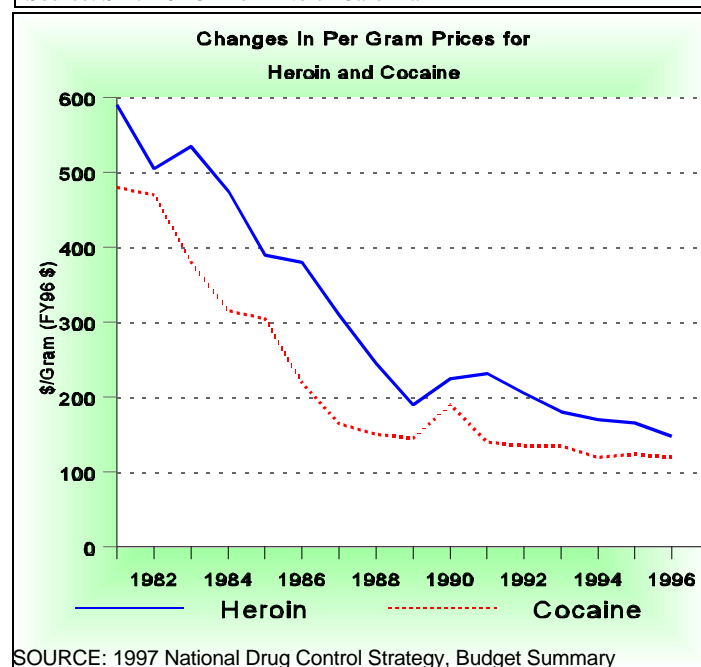
The Market Economy of Drugs

As legal commodities are seen as having a market utility, illegal drug usage also can be tied to forces such as supply, demand, price, quality, and quantity. The adjacent table provides an overview of the price trends of per gram undercover purchase prices for *pure* cocaine and heroin. The price of heroin has been divided by 10 to facilitate this trend comparison. Economics of given markets have long been the basis for policy decisions.

The trend of heroin and cocaine usage rising during the 1980s and 1990s has a correlation to the fall in street prices for these substances, indicating price affects consumption. In economic markets, higher prices tend to drive down consumption. However, recent trends indicate the lower prices for heroin and cocaine combined with their increasing purity levels have driven new demand among former addicts and younger adults. Prices tend to escalate based on the distance from the source. For example, cocaine is more expensive in Buffalo than in New York City and even more expensive in European countries. However, in Mexico, Florida, and major American cities the prices tend to be lower. The trend of inexpensive drugs prompting a rise in usage can be seen by the spread of D-Methamphetamine use in western states. While this drug has made its way to North Carolina, an abundance of inexpensive high quality cocaine has prevented an outbreak of this drug among substance abusers here.



Source: SBI/DCI Crime In North Carolina



SOURCE: 1997 National Drug Control Strategy, Budget Summary